

SO WHAT'S left for Wycombe Wanderers now?

In terms of trophies, precious little, for the first time in three years, the Blues are having to fight for every point they can get.

But while they now have no interest in the F.A. Cup, Amateur Cup and no hope of winning the Isthmian League, the time is ripe for Wanderers to show their true character. A good run in the league and the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup may well be 'small fry' compared with their recent triumphs, but to their fans, it would go a long way to making up for their recent Amateur Cup, first round defeat by Cheshunt.

The league now looks well sewn up for Hendon but the Blues are still in with a chance of getting into the top five

Half term review by STUART EARP

while they haven't won the B and B Senior Cup since 1969 and what better way to culminate the season than a victory in the final. Even better, a final against Slough Town — their bogey side for the last few years!

But just where have Wycombe gone wrong this season? Admittedly the loss of Ted Powell and Micky Mellows was a big one, especially Mellows, whose power and finishing upfront has been sadly missed.

This is really where Wanderers have come unstuck this season. In only a couple of games have they been consistently able to put away their chances — notably Egham and Banbury (6-1 and 8-0 respectively).

There has been an amazing

amount of opportunities created — as many in fact as this stage last season when they were riding high at the top of the table. But the finishing just hasn't been there. Not even Keith Searle, now with Hendon, could hit the target regularly, although his all round game improved no end.

Tony Horseman returned but has not really rediscovered his extremely high standard of the past. Tony Amos, of whom far too much was expected when he signed on in October, is improving game by game, and has scored some quite incredible goals.

Mick Holifield has been in and out but recent form suggests he is now back at his best. New centre forward Mick

Ashwin could well be groomed into a fine player at Loakes Park.

In midfield Barry Davies came and went without making much impression while Rob Williams alternated from midfield and the back four before being injured for a month. Rob too seems to be approaching his best form recently.

Johnny Hutchinson has been brilliant at times but finds it difficult to maintain the standard.

Larry Pritchard has been about the only consistent player in the side all season. He will play a vital part if Wanderers are to lift their league position. Keith Jameson came from Hayes but has been struggling to settle into the side while

Alan Gane has been too inconsistent for a regular place.

Wycombe have had their problems at the back too. John Maskell has had some terrible misfortunes this year on and off the field while the Gerry Olsen-John Delaney centre half combination has never really come off as their style of play is too similar.

When Williams has dropped to the back four the defence seems more mobile but Rob's injury has meant Wycombe have been unable to find a settled defence throughout the term.

Mick Cooper, an experienced campaigner from Hendon has been out for some time with injuries, while Ian Rundle is as hard as ever. Derek Gambelin has retired from international football and he also has been struggling to reach his own high standard.

But to be fair, Wycombe fans must have seen some of the best goalkeeping at Loakes Park this season than any other year. Mick Hughes (Aylesbury), Terry Moore (Bishop's Stortford) and Dave Collyer (Woking) to name but three, have performed miracles in the face of Wanderers attack.

Dave Collyer's performance swung the game for Woking. He produced a string of fantastic saves throughout the second half, including one from a Delaney penalty. John Swannell, the England 'keeper, was also in great form when Hendon won 1-0 at Loakes Park.

Will their fortune change? I think if the Blues can just keep plugging away, there will be a few more results like Banbury United cropping up again in the later part of the season.